

ARUBA NEWS

PUBLISHED EVERY OTHER SATURDAY, AT ARUBA, NETHERLANDS
ANTILLES, BY LAGO OIL & TRANSPORT CO., LTD.
Printed by the Aruba Drukkerij N.V., Neth. Ant.

Thousands Enjoy Parades, Events of 1959 Carnival

Carnival 1959! Only in the Caribbean area can be found such a colorful, gay pre-Lenten event — metallic tones of steel bands competing with shuffling feet and hundreds of happy voices as the parade moves through the streets of San Nicolas and Oranjestad.

Carnival parade was the highlight, the climax to this gay time of year. As in past years a queen and prince were chosen to officiate over the gala celebrations that preceded the big parade. Elected queen of the 1959 Carnival was Miss Viceroy, Alicia Dijkhoff, who reigned over all her merry-making constituents with Prince Carnival.

The Carnival season got underway when the Temporary Lt. Governor of Aruba was "banned" to the Monkey Islands. This was followed by the Children's Carnival on Jan. 25 when youthful jumbies, witches, mermaids and hula dancers vied for prizes at the Lago Sport Park.

Major event of every carnival is selection of the queen. Lovely Miss Viceroy was awarded this distinction by the royal judges at Wilhelmina Stadium Jan. 31. Vying with seven other glamorous candidates, Miss Viceroy's charm, graciousness and audience appeal earned her the royal title of 1959 Carnival queen. Runner up to Miss Viceroy was Miss Caribe, Betty Blakely.

Before the queen could command her royal subjects a coronation was in order. This, too, took place in Wil-

helmina Stadium the evening of Feb. 6. The honor of placing the crown on her royal majesty's raven locks went to Temp. Lt. Gov. E. Arends.

The afternoon of Feb. 7 was the date of the big Carnival 1959 parade in San Nicolas followed the next day by another parade of competing floats and costume groups in Oranjestad.

Hundreds of revelers lined every major street of both towns to enjoy the beauty of majestic floats and clowning antics of parading groups. And what parades! Shades of Fidel Castro and his 26th Day of July movement! Could that be the bearded hero himself? It wasn't Fidel, the liberator of Cuba, but it was a very remarkable resemblance that led this costumed group through the streets of both San Nicolas and Oranjestad.

Then in all her glory and beauty came the queen followed by dancing leopard men, the deck of cards group, Caribe Indians, a comic railroad train, jumbies, rocketeers, queen candidates radiating beauty and all told, dozens upon dozens of laughing, dancing people. Merrymaking went well on into the night of Feb. 7.

The morning of Feb. 8 was different. "Time to go to work!" Hundreds of guilders in materials lay crumpled in corners of many rooms of many homes. Carnival 1959 was over in Aruba.